

RESPONSE AND REMARKS

Amendments to the specification are submitted herewith to make minor corrections to the specification, such as indicating reference numbers present in the drawings, and other minor corrections.

In the Office Action, dated January 11, 2005, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-12 and 14-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Barni, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,064,981) ("Barni") and rejected Claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Barni.

The Examiner's rejections have been carefully considered. Independent Claim 4 has been amended to correct a punctuation error. Claims 1-3, and 5-18 of the present application remain in the application as previously presented. New Claims 19-21 have been added. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested in view of the following responsive remarks.

Even though it is respectfully submitted that, for the reasons previously given, independent Claims 1, 4, 7 and Claim 10, are patentably distinct from Barni, a Declaration by the inventors named on the present application under 37 C.F.R. §1.131 is filed concurrently herewith to substantiate the invention of the subject matter claimed in the present application prior to June 17, 1999, the reported filing date of the Barni reference. It is respectfully submitted that the Declaration by the inventors named on the present application filed concurrently herewith under 37 C.F.R. §1.131 substantiates the invention of the subject matter claimed in the present application prior to June 17, 1999, the reported filing date of the Barni reference.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the invention disclosed and claimed in the present amended application is not fairly taught by any of the prior art references of record, taken either alone or in combination, and

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that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the present application be reconsidered and allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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